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Meetings 4th Tuesday  
6pm



# Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

**Come to the January 27th Meeting at 6pm**

**at the Scripps Ranch Library**

**and learn**

## **HOW TO GROW FRUIT TREES**

**With Fruit Tree Specialist**

**Mr. Trees Tyler Trimble**



**No meeting in December**



*Autumn is  
leafing us.*

*Can Spring  
be  
far behind?*

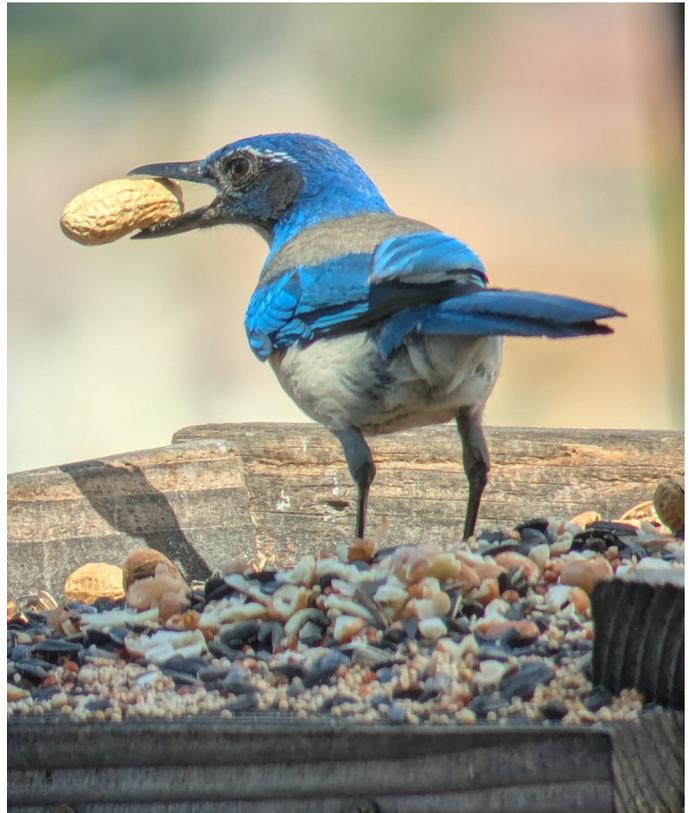
## California Scrub-Jay

by Dave Fortner

This month's bird features the California Scrub-Jay. At 12 inches long, these smart Corvids are a rich, azure blue and gray above, pale below with a long tail. They eat nuts, seeds, fruit, and insects. They make more than 20 different calls, but you often hear a boisterous "ziieek." Attract them to your garden with an open seed feeder with peanuts! (unsalted, with or without shells).

Scrub-Jays are always a beautiful and entertaining addition to your garden.

Photograph by Cindy Fortner.



# President's Message

Greetings Gifted Gardeners,

What a marvelous November gathering for our pumpkin-themed potluck! I truly enjoyed the warmhearted camaraderie and the delicious dishes. It was a wonderful way to relax with fellow garden enthusiasts as the holiday season began.

When I think of December, the first seasonal plant that comes to mind is the poinsettia. Stores are carrying a wide variety of them in different sizes and colors this year. In addition to the poinsettia, the anthurium—a tropical plant with shiny dark green leaves and bright flower spathes—has become one of my favorites to display during the holidays. Like the poinsettia, anthuriums also come in many colors, so if you're looking for an alternative, you might give this beautiful plant a try.



If you're finding yourself with an abundance of produce from your garden, Denise has suggested donating any extra fresh harvest to our military neighbors. The STEP program (Support the Enlisted Project) proudly supports enlisted families and will gladly accept fresh produce. Their new location is nearby at 8320 Juniper Creek Lane in Mira Mesa.

Last year Karen attended the Hawk Watch program in Ramona and highly recommends it for the coming season. In 2026, the Wildlife Research Institute will present the program on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. during January and February. More information is available at: <https://www.wildlife-research.org/hawkwatch>

During December, take time to savor the scents and sights of winter. May your holidays be filled with the beauty of the season. It has been a privilege and a joy to serve as one of your co-presidents, and I am deeply grateful for the support, friendship, and enthusiasm you have shared with me throughout my time in this role.

**Warmly,  
Jean Buckner**



## December Garden Chores

- Plant winter veggies
- Plant cilantro, parsley, carrots, celery, leafy greens
- Monitor indoor plants for dryness. Adjust water
- Mulch and compost
- Repair and sharpen tools
- Adjust water system after rain
- Order seeds and supplies for spring planting